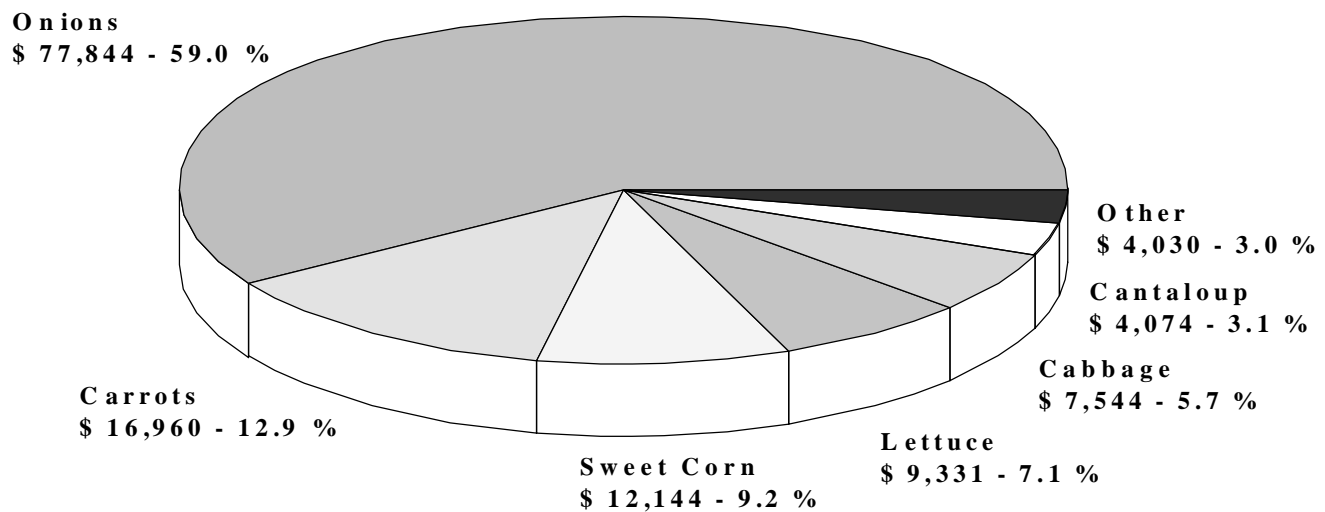


Colorado Vegetable Crops - 1998

Value of Production & % of Total

(Value in \$ 1,000)



VEGETABLE CROPS - 1998

Vegetable producers in Colorado harvested just under 11.0 million cwt of fresh market and processing crops during 1998 which had a total value of \$131.9 million, up 21 percent from the \$109.3 million received for virtually the same quantity of vegetables produced in 1997. Production was higher than the previous year for cabbage, lettuce, onions, and sweet corn. Smaller crops were produced for cantaloupe, carrots, cucumbers, and spinach. Acreage and production estimates are prepared for only eight vegetable crops. Numerous other vegetable crops are produced in the state but are not surveyed for acreage and production data.

Production of **dry storage onions** in 1998 totaled 6.1 million cwt, up 14 percent from the previous year. The harvested area increased 5 percent to 16,000 acres and the average yield of 380 cwt per acre was 30 cwt above the 1997 average. The quantity of onions expected to be marketed had an estimated value of \$77.8 million compared with \$49.5 million from the 1997 crop. Onions represented 55 percent of the total production and 59 percent of the total value from the eight crops.

Carrots were the second largest vegetable crop produced in the state, accounting for 15 percent of the total production and 13 percent of the total value. Production declined 33 percent from the previous year, to 1.6 million cwt, as a result of fewer acres harvested and lower yields. Value of the 1998 crop, at just under \$17.0 million, was 29 percent below a year earlier.

Sweet corn was the third leading vegetable crop, accounting for 10 percent of the total production and 9 percent of the total value. Harvested acreage was up 10 percent, per acre yields were down slightly, production increased 6 percent and per unit prices were much improved from the previous year.

Cabbage ranked fourth in production and fifth in value. Value of production, at \$7.5 million, was up 28 percent from a year earlier as a result of a 12 percent increase in production and a 14 percent increase in prices.

Lettuce had the fifth highest production and ranked fourth in terms of value of production. Production was up 14 percent from a year earlier to 864,000 cwt but value of production, at \$9.3 million, was 16 percent below the previous year as a result of a 26 percent decline in price.

Cantaloupe ranked sixth in both production and value. Production was down 14 percent from 1997 to 304,000 cwt and value was down 23 percent to \$4.07 million.

Spinach placed seventh with a total production of 95,000 cwt, down 9 percent, from 1,900 acres harvested. The 1998 crop was valued at \$3.8 million, up 14 percent from the \$3.3 million received for the 1997 crop.

Cucumbers for pickles production in 1998 was 1,440 tons, down 76 percent from 1997. Value of the 1998 crop, at just \$230,000, was down 79 percent.